

APR 25 1963

Approved For Release 2000/08/24 : CIA-RDP

FOIAb3b

DONOVAN TOOK SON TO CUBA

Wanted To Show Sincerity;
Castro Seen Pleased

CPYRGHT

New York, April 24 (AP)—To show his sincerity, James B. Donovan took his teen-age son along on one of his trips to negotiate the release of 27 American prisoners in Cuba.

"The boy played an important part in these negotiations," Donovan said today. "Castro was enormously pleased to meet him and was completely taken by my self-confidence in bringing him."

Castro's advisers had been warning the Cuban Prime Minister that Donovan was dangerous, Donovan said in explaining why 18-year-old John accompanied him on the April 5-9 trip.

"He Was Impressed"

"He was impressed when I showed up with the boy," Donovan added.

At Lake Placid, N.Y., where he is a high school senior at the Northwood School, John described both the trip and Castro as "fascinating."

John said he spent the better part of two days with Castro and:

"We went swimming, spearfishing, drove around the countryside, visited the Bay of Pigs, but mostly we talked."

"Good With Speargun"

The youth said Castro is "quite good with the speargun. He caught 15 fish when we went out together, one of them a 40-pounder."

Young Donovan, who has been accepted as a student at Georgetown University at Washington next year, got this impression of the Cuban Prime Minister:

"Castro is an intense man, but charming. He has a magnetic personality, uses his hands a lot and rambles from the subject

when he talks, but his conversations are not aimless."

The youth said that Castro spent considerable time describing points of interest on an automobile tour through the countryside and became quite emotional at the Bay of Pigs area when describing the abortive Cuban invasion.

"Broad Subjects"

"We discussed broad subjects like communism at times," young Donovan said.

"His argument for communism was logical and convincing. However, there is a distinct difference between his values and ours."

The elder Donovan, a Wall Street lawyer who lives in Brooklyn, said that Castro posed for snapshots with John.

Asked what was the most unusual incident during the trip, young Donovan replied:

"The whole trip was unusual. My gosh, wouldn't it be for anyone?"